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## Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

# Memo

**To:** Mike Murawski, ethics advocate  
**From:** Karl Ross, ethics investigator  
**Date:** Nov. 14, 2007  
**Re:** K07-085 Carrie Meek

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**Background:** COE opened a case looking into whether former U.S. Congresswoman Carrie Meek improperly lobbied County Commissioner Dorrin Rolle on behalf of developer Dennis Stackhouse and a proposed biotech project in Liberty City. The case was initiated following a June 28 e-mail from Robert Steinman in which Steinman claimed Rolle made an admission during a county commission meeting that he was lobbied by Meek and others. Steinman said he heard Rolle make remarks about “sitting across the table” from Meek and discussing the \$250 million project. Earlier this year, Rolle sponsored legislation to help fast-track funding for a related parking garage, according to a published newspaper report.

A review of Meek’s lobbyist registration information on file with the Miami-Dade clerk’s office indicates Meek is not registered to lobby on behalf of Stackhouse or his project, the Poinciana Biopharmaceutical Park. At the time Rolle pushed for funding for the parking garage, Meek was occupying an office rent-free at one of Stackhouse’s properties, the Town Center One building in Opa-locka. Meek was also driving a luxury SUV provided by Stackhouse free of charge, it was learned.

**Findings:** COE obtained video tape of the June 28 commission meeting and reviewed Rolle’s remarks. It was determined that Rolle used the expression of “sitting across the table” figuratively and that he did not literally sit across the table from Meek and others to discuss the Poinciana biotech project. “I felt it was a great project because sitting at the table I sat at was Congresswoman Carrie Meek, [her son, current U.S. Rep.] Kendrick Meek, Florida A&M University, our own community

college (Miami-Dade College) and Jackson Hospital.” It became clear from listening to Rolle’s remarks that no such meeting took place, but that he was referring to the individuals and institutions that endorsed the biotech deal in his district.

COE additionally requested copies of Rolle’s meeting calendar from June 2006 to the present, which the commissioner provided through his attorney, Andre Crenshaw. No meetings with the former U.S. Congresswoman were listed on the calendar. During the course of this investigation, a second unrelated issue concerning Meek’s lobbying activities on behalf of Wackenhut was also briefly examined. But the latter has nothing to do with the allegations originally raised by Steinman in his e-mail.

**Conclusion:** Accordingly, it is recommended that the above-cited be closed. COE may wish to pursue the unrelated matter separately.